

DESBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report by J. T. Murphy, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

75, London Road,
Kettering.

February, 1943.

Chairman, Mrs. Bosworth and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my annual report on the health of
Desborough for 1941.

The outstanding development of the year was the campaign
to reduce the incidence of and mortality from diphtheria. Free
immunisation against diphtheria was offered to all children from
one to fifteen years. Two injections of diphtheria prophylactic
were injected into the skin of the arm at monthly intervals.
No untoward effects have been reported to me. The drive for
diphtheria prevention was backed wholeheartedly by the County
Public Health and School Medical Departments.

No deterioration has been noticed during the year either
in the health of the people or in the general hygiene of the Urban
District including the preparation and handling of food.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members
of the Public Health Committee for their support and help and also
to my fellow officers for their assistance throughout the year.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

J. T. MURPHY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

Vital Statistics.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate ...	57	30	27
Illegitimate ...	-	-	-
Totals.	57	30	27
<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate ...	3	2	1
Illegitimate ...	-	-	-
Totals.	3	2	1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 50.

<u>DEATHS.</u>	Total.	Males.	Females.
	51	25	26

No comparability figure has been issued by the Registrar-General
because of the variety and magnitude of local population movements
and the uneven incidence of civilian deaths.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes ... Nil.

Death-rate of Infants under one year. Males - 3.

Death-rate per thousand live births. 52.63

There were no deaths from measles, whooping cough, or from
diarrhoea in children under two years of age.

Deaths from Cancer.	10
Deaths from Heart Disease and other circulatory disturbances including intra-cranial vascular lesions.	22

There were no deaths from road traffic accidents, suicide and other violent causes.

The highest death rates are, as usual, due to circulatory causes and cancer. There were five deaths from pneumonia of all forms.

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services.

Diphtheria immunisation:-

Immunisation against diphtheria was carried out at the Schools and in the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic. A monthly immunisation clinic is held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic.

The total number of children who completed the full course of immunisation up to the 31st December, 1941:-

	<u>Under 5 years.</u>	<u>Between 5 and 15 years.</u>
Percentage immunised.	92 33.32%	467 70%

SECTION C & E. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area and Inspection of Food.

Report by A. Harris, M.I.M. & Cy.E., A.R. San. I.
Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

Water Supply. An adequate supply was maintained throughout the year. Samples of water taken for examination were satisfactory.

The equipment for chlorinating the water was installed at the two pumping stations and has been working continuously without giving any trouble.

No water mains were extended.

Sewage Disposal. Although a shortage of labour has been experienced the sewage disposal works have been well maintained and the effluent has been uniformly good.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area. During the year, 167 inspections were made. 24 nuisances were abated by serving informal notices.

No statutory notices were necessary.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act. A rat week was held in January when 459 rats were destroyed. Another campaign was organised during April, resulting in the destruction of 168 rats.

Milk Supply. 97 samples of milk were submitted for examination; 76 were good; 9 were moderate and 12 were bad.

SECTION D. Housing.

No houses were built during 1941.

Overcrowding. One case of overcrowding was outstanding.

SECTION F. Infectious Diseases.

During 1941 a considerable epidemic of measles occurred.

The infectious diseases notified were as follows:-

Paratyphoid.....	1
Scarlet Fever.....	5
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1
Erysipelas.....	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.....	1
Whooping Cough.....	16
Measles.....	265

There was one death from cerebro-spinal fever, a boy aged 4 years. No cases of pneumonia were notified during the year.

Tuberculosis.

One case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified during the year, and there were two deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis.

The following figures show the number of cases of tuberculosis on the register at the end of 1941:-

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	13	8	21
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.	6	2	8
			<hr/>
			29
			<hr/>

EVACUEES.

No evacuees were received in the area during the period under review, and at the end of the year the position was as follows:-

Mothers.....	24
Children with mothers.....	34
Unaccompanied school children...	233
Teachers, Helpers and other adults.....	44
	<hr/>
	335
	<hr/>

These figures show that a considerable number had either returned to their homes, or had ceased to be billeted,

Scabies and impetigo were dealt with through the County Council Public Assistance Institutions while bed-wetting and behaviour abnormalities were treated in the special County Council Hostels established for this purpose.

